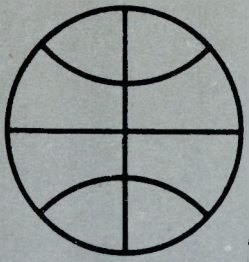
Two Different Worlds



Two Different Ideologies

Lev KORNEYEV

ISRAEL: The Reality Behind the Myths

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INTRODUCTION

The population of Israel numbers a little over three and a half million. And yet every year in the West this state is the subject of dozens of books and pamphlets and thousands of articles and reports. Not a day passes without it being mentioned in Western newspapers or radio and television broadcasts. Western propaganda, which to a large extent is under Zionist financial control, proclaims Israel to be the social and economic "miracle" of the twentieth century. It would not be an exaggeration to say that there is no country about which Zionist propaganda has created so many myths as it has about Israel. As the Finnish writer Martti Larni once said after a trip to Israel, "The spiritual life of the Israeli is founded on myth."

In Washington, Paris, London and other Western capitals, given a platform and a willing audience, glorification of Israel flows from the mouth of Tel Aviv officialdom as from the cornucopia. However, even many leaders of the international Zionist movement such as Nahum Goldmann (in a book recently published in Paris entitled *Where Is Israel Going?)* consider that the racist, aggressive policies of the Tel Aviv leadership are beginning to rouse the indignation of many countries and pose a threat to the future of the Israeli nation. The promise of the

Zionist bosses to turn Israel into a "refuge for the world's Jewry" has proved to be merely a lure to delude hundreds of thousands of gullible people. Israel today is one of the most militaristic states in the world. It is a country torn apart by deep-seated internal contradictions where the basic rights both of Arabs and of progressively minded Jews are violated.

Throughout the world, criticism of Israel's foreign policy is mounting. The leading newspapers of many countries are full of articles by well-known journalists, political and public figures, in which Israel's treatment of the Palestinian Arabs and her continued sabotage of UN resolutions are severely criticised.

In this respect the world public shares the point of view put forward by Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in his speech to the World Peace Congress held in Moscow. In this speech he said: "It is difficult to understand what the Israeli rulers are counting on by following this adventurist course, flouting the resolutions of the UN Security Council, and defying world public opinion. . . . Such a course will yield neither peace nor security for Israel." Nonetheless, the myths are still widespread in the West about Israel being "a land of justice and democracy, a country free of national, cultural and racial oppression", the aim being to attract new Jewish settlers to the "Promised Land" and to maintain world-wide support for any expansionist act of aggression which Israel may care to commit.

In the words of an Eastern proverb, however, a lie is only fat when it is alone. In the presence of witnesses it becomes thin. So let us see how immutable facts, past and present, bear witness to Israel.

THE TOOLS OF IMPERIALISM

Almost every day we hear reports from the Middle East of the cruel suppression by Israeli Zionists of the just struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for the right to set up their own state and of Israeli incursions into the Lebanon. Israel's expansionist policy has turned the Middle East into an area of international tension and a threat to the peace of the entire world.

Zionism is the ideology and policy of the Jewish bourgeoisie and forms part of the world-wide financial oligarchy. In the face of fierce competition, the Jewish bourgeoisie is trying to consolidate its economic power politically through internationally organised Zionism and its "own" state, Israel. Zionism has two main functions. The first is its role in the general system of imperialism and the second is its nationalistic role. The main aim of the Jewish bourgeoisie throughout the world is to consolidate its position in the system of monopoly capitalism. Zionist leaders consider that the best way to achieve this is to encourage nationalist, and even racist, fervour.

From the first days of its existence Zionism has spoken out against friendship between nations. As the Zionist leader Theodor Herzl wrote in 1896, in

his pamphlet *The Jewish State,* "World-wide fraternity is just a pipe-dream. The main thing in human affairs is antagonism."

Zionism proclaimed its official task to be the creation of a Jewish state, where, in Herzl's words, "rich Jews could feast without having to hide behind the shutters." The movement received its name from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, where the prophets of the "Jewish state" called upon the world's Jews to gather. The Zionist leaders had hoped that the formation of the Jewish state would further a sharp increase in racism among Jews. At the same time they tried to ensure that support for the state was forthcoming from the Zionist community. The whole system was designed to strengthen as far as possible the position of the powerful Jewish big bourgeoisie in the imperialist system, while creating the conditions for its further expansion.

The Zionists, however, concealed their real aims by means of ideological enticements. They promised to gather all Jews into a single state, to deliver them from the antisemitism prevalent in many capitalist countries, and to create a "paradise for Jews" free from social conflict and class struggle. Thus they refer to Zionism as "a national liberation movement", "Jewish socialism" and "the Jewish revolution", resorting to shameless demagogy. At the same time they mounted a broad campaign to dull the consciousness of Jews by means of Old Testament obscurantist propaganda and racist myths about the Jews being "the Chosen People" and their "right" and even their "duty" to rule other nations.

I have before me an official document – the minutes of the last, the 29th, Congress of the World Zionist Organisation (WZO), which was held from February 20 to 28, 1978, in the Zionist-occupied

town of Jerusalem. I use the word "occupied" intentionally, for Jerusalem is indeed an enslaved and occupied town.

Following a UN General Assembly resolution, adopted on November 29, 1947, Jerusalem and Bethlehem and their outlying regions were separated into independent administrative units to be governed internationally by a UN Trusteeship Council. During the 1948-1949 Palestine war the Israelis seized part of Jerusalem, and in the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, Moshe Dayan's forces took over the whole of this ancient Canaan town, which had existed in the Eastern Mediterranean long before the arrival of the Hebrew tribes.

Resolution No. 242 of the UN Security Council dated November 22, 1967, demanded the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Arab territory occupied during the "Six-Day War", including the eastern part of Jerusalem.

But in Tel Aviv they have little time for UN resolutions. On the contrary, Prime Minister Menahem Begin is now announcing in the Knesset: "We Israelis will never quit Jerusalem!" Any reference to international law or the UN General Assembly or Security Council resolutions is brushed aside without comment. Every Israeli schoolchild is required to learn by heart the cynical credo of David Ben Gourion, one of the "Founding Fathers" of Israel: "The important thing is what the Jews do, not what the goys [1] say!"

The Israelis have seized tens of thousands of square kilometres of Palestinian land. In trying to keep their grip on the occupied territories of Gaza, the West Bank of the Jordan and the Golan Heights,

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[1] Goy—a disparaging term used by Jews of non-Jews, meaning "heathens".

the expansionists, with the support of the USA and the rest of the NATO bloc, do not rely on American tanks, rockets and fighters only. Part of their ideological armoury is the assertion that the Jews have a legal historical claim on Palestine. But does this claim stand up?

It is well known that it is not possible in international affairs, even in principle, to accept territorial claims on the basis of historic rights. Otherwise serious international armed conflicts would arise and the world would be thrown into chaos. Under such a principle, for example, the whole of America would have to be cleared of interlopers from Europe, Asia and Africa and the whole continent returned to its aboriginal population, the American Indians. Such cases are innumerable.

So far as Palestine is concerned, however, the question is entirely different. Palestine was originally Arab territory and not Jewish.

The ancient Hebrew tribes appeared in Palestine, which at that time was called Canaan, in the 12th century B.C. Canaan was a flourishing country with well-developed maritime trade, whose inhabitants spoke a language related to Arabic. The backward, nomadic tribes of the ancient Hebrews penetrated from the Arabian desert into the sparsely populated mountainous regions of Canaan and founded there the small kingdoms of Judea and Israel. For a long time these kingdoms were under the suzerainty of Canaan and played an insignificant role in the history of the ancient world.

These two Hebrew kingdoms existed in the Middle East for 500 years at the most. They were successively ravaged by the Assyrians, the Babylonians and Ancient Rome. For about 200 years there was no Jewish state at all as such. The inhabitants of Judea and Israel, the ancient Jews, had largely been

scattered throughout the world even before the final destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. At that time four of the five million Hebrews lived outside the Hebrew state. The main reason for resettling them had been their efforts to emigrate from the rocky desert land of central Palestine to more fertile lands.

By the 3rd century A.D., the wealthy upper class Jews had already become a caste of merchants, usurers and middlemen. According to the *Encyclopedia of Zionism and Israel* published in New York in 1971, by the 16th century there were practically no Jews left in Israel, those remaining numbering less than 5,000, and a similar situation continued right up until the end of the 19th century. As the New York encyclopedia points out, in the 1870's there were only 12,000 Jews as against 600-650,000 Arabs in Palestine. In 1854, Karl Marx wrote in his article *The Declaration of War: On the History of the Eastern Question:* "The Jews are not natives of Palestine, but come from many distant countries."

Who owned the lands of Palestine, then, and who tilled its soil and reaped its harvests? The answer is that the descendants of the Canaans were the first settlers in Palestine and have remained the rightful owners of its lands. In the 8th century they became assimilated into related Arab tribes. Thus the Palestinian Arabs form part of the Arab nation, and on an ethnological basis are the sole legal owners of Palestine.

The wealthier Jews, having settled in many countries throughout the world, engaged in trade and money-lending. With the support of the rabbis, the prosperous Jewish leaders, money-changers, usurers and merchants fleeced both their fellow Jews and the Christians. Jewish merchants and bankers competed both with "Christians" and among themselves.

Economic espionage and counterespionage were very important in this competitive struggle and since there were Jewish communities in practically every major country Jewish businessmen had their own secret service in these countries and thus had a considerable advantage over their non-Jewish rivals. Hence, over the course of centuries, Jewish merchants and bankers accumulated enormous wealth. It is no accident that the name of Rothschild has come to mean a fabulously rich man.

Constant economic and political ties were maintained between the ruling classes of Jewish communities who carried on trade and banking in various parts of the world. Indeed, already in olden times the clerical and mercantile Jewish elite had formed a sort of global, centrally-controlled corporation. The Jewish historian and politician, Simon Dubnow, has referred to "centres of Jewish hegemony", which, he points out, existed successively in Babylon, Palestine, Spain, France, Germany and Poland. The Jewish bourgeoisie in the leading capitalist countries, far from sharing the sufferings of the Jewish working class, have always been in a privileged position.

The Jewish bourgeoisie endeavoured to use their particular nationalistic, religious and clan ties as additional weapons in battles with other monopolistic groups. At the same time they aimed to strengthen and extend those ties by political means and to win the support of the broad masses of Jews. Naturally, the fact that the Jewish bourgeoisie formed a comparatively independent capitalist group in the imperialistic competitive struggle did not exclude the possibility of internal competition between individual Jewish capitalists.

As imperialism became established at the end of the 19th century, competition between individual

monopolistic groupings grew much fiercer. In the places where the "centres of hegemony" had been set up, resistance to them from the local ruling elite grew in proportion to their efforts. Over the course of centuries this resistance became the main reason why these centres were dismantled and transferred to other areas. The development of capitalism, however, and the consolidation of the national bourgeoisie made it doubtful whether such centres of hegemony could be set up at all in the industrially developed capitalist countries.

At the same time the working class and poorer Jews were being drawn into the world-wide struggle against imperialism and the Jewish cosmopolitan corporations were being eroded. The progressive exclusion of working class Jews and part of the intelligentsia from the control of the traditional community leaders hastened the process of "dilution" of the Jewish communities and the assimilation of the Jews. It is for this reason that Zionists consider even voluntary assimilation to be the "number one threat".

Even at the beginning of the 19th century the Jewish bourgeoisie considered their main task to be the isolation of the Jews ideologically and politically. As imperialism became established and competition increased this aim could not fail to become more significant.

Thus as far back as the 1840's, long before the official founding of the Zionist movement, the idea was mooted of setting up a special "centre of hegemony" on "neutral" territory, in the form of a "racially pure" Jewish state. The proponents of this "Jewish state" called upon the world's Jews to gather by Mt. Zion in Jerusalem and so this movement became known as Zionism.

The main reason for the rise of Zionism was the need for the Jewish bourgeoisie to strengthen their control over the rest of the Jews by creating a "racially pure" "centre of hegemony", whose function would be to consolidate as far as possible their position in the capitalist system. Hence Zionism is a direct consequence of imperialism.

FIRE AND SWORD

In Tel Aviv, in the spring of 1978, it was estimated that the "Seven-Day War" in the Lebanon had cost Israel 30 million dollars. As far as the Israeli leaders were concerned this was very little – in fact far less than had been earmarked for the purpose by the Israeli General Staff. But in the other column of these sordid accounts there were 1,300 Lebanese and Palestinians killed, thousands maimed, and 200,000 peaceful inhabitants of southern Lebanon made homeless.

The Israeli incursion into the Lebanon was a carefully planned and premeditated act. It was part of Zionism's global strategy to create a "Great Israel" stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates, and thus to realise at the expense of Arab lives the wild, hegemonistic dreams of the old Jewish money-grubbers.

At the same time it is worth considering the fact that a series of acts in recent years, which have been ascribed to "Arab terrorists", have actually been perpetrated on the initiative or under the leadership of leftist or anarchist elements based, for instance, in West Germany or Japan. It is well known that Zionist agents have infiltrated extremist organisations of this kind. International Zionism has

a whole network of global organisations and groups of saboteurs in a number of countries whose function is to incite provocation. Psychological and political terror, mass murder and genocide have long been part of Israeli practice in occupied Palestine.

From the end of the 19th century onwards, using contributions from Jewish millionaires such as Rothschild and Hirsch, the Zionists have been trying by fair means or foul to direct Jews to the Arab lands of Palestine. The Jews who came to Palestine have always behaved like colonialists towards the Arabs. One of the ideological leaders of Zionism, Ahad Haam, wrote after a visit to Palestine at the beginning of this century that the Jews had been "slaves in the country they had been driven out of, but now suddenly found themselves completely at liberty. . . . This abrupt turn-around aroused a tendency towards despotism, which often happens when servant becomes master. They treat the Arabs in a cruel, hostile fashion, curtail their rights in an indescribable way, assault them without reason and even boast about it. And yet no one raised any objection to this despicable and dangerous tendency" which was soon to become everyday Zionist practice.

As far back as 1902, Herzl in his secret diary was dreaming of the day when Jewish armed brigades would be formed to drive the Arabs out of Palestine. In 1920, with the backing of the English representatives of the Rothschild bank, a Jewish military colonialist organisation, the Haganah (Defence), was founded in Palestine. The Haganah operated in a number of Arab countries and to a large extent was a tool of British colonial administration. The operations of the Haganah against British troops were of a secondary nature and were coordinated with British interests in the Arab world in mind.

The ideological basis of Zionist imperialist expansionism was their promise to create their "own" state in Palestine and this would naturally be impossible if hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs were not driven out. These territorial aims, rooted in racism and chauvinism, formed part of Zionism's programme from its very first days.

The Zionist cause found support on the one hand from such quarters as the archreactionary and antisemitic Tsarist Russia and the German government under Kaiser Wilhelm II, and on the other hand from the ruling circles in Great Britain and France. Both groups saw in Zionism a useful tool for pursuing their colonialist policies and for breaking up the unity of revolutionary workers in many countries. As the Austrian writer, Stefan Zweig, once sarcastically remarked, politics don't take account of feelings.

In the 1920's, with the help of British imperialists, the Zionists succeeded in increasing the Jewish settlements in Palestine and strengthening their armed forces. Between 1936 and 1939, these forces were used, along with contingents from the British Army, to put down the popular Arab anticolonial movement. In this way Zionism served as the executioner of the Arab national liberation movement for the benefit of imperialism and at the same time embarked upon the genocide of the Arabs. With British connivance they drove the Arabs off the land, razed 250 Arab villages to the ground and thus cleared "living space" for the new Jewish settlers.

They also used terrorist tactics against Jews themselves in order to ensure mass emigration to Palestine. Even before the formation of Israel, on November 25, 1940, the Zionist secret service, Mossad le Aliyah bet, blew up the *Patria*, in the port of Haifa with 203 Jewish immigrants on board, whom

the British authorities would not allow on shore. The Zionists later spread a story about how the passengers on the boat had committed mass suicide rather than "be parted with their homeland". These deaths and the story spread about were calculated to "fortify the spirit of Zionism". Terrorism also became the principal means adopted to frustrate the UN resolution of November 29, 1947, on the division of Palestine into two states, one Jewish, the other Arab.

Between December, 1947 and February, 1948 alone, armed Zionist groups from Haganah, Irgun Tzwai Leumi and the Stern-gang made more than two thousand raids on the peaceful Arab population in an attempt to force them to leave their homes under threat of extermination. In effect they were waging a genocidal war against the Palestinian Arabs and the climax to this campaign came in the early morning of April 10, 1948, with the appalling massacre in Deir Yassin. Here, with bayonets and grenades, they killed 254 villagers, including women, old men and children. "This battle was more than justified," the then leader of Irgun Tzwai Leumi, Menahem Begin, said later. "Without this victory (!?) the Israeli state would not exist today."

The Deir Yassin massacre was the beginning of a tragic list of devastation of Arab villages. The facts speak for themselves: even before the first Arab-Israeli war 250,000 Palestinians left their homeland. During the hostilities of 1948-49, 250 Arab villages were destroyed. The towns of Jaffa, Lydda, Acre and Beisan were abandoned. Some 900,000 Palestinian Arabs were forced through fear of Zionist terrorism to leave the country which their ancestors had inhabited for thousands of years. The Israeli aggression of 1967 increased this number by a further 525,000. In just three years, between 1967

and 1970, a total of 700 Arab towns and villages in Israeli-occupied territory were destroyed, tens of thousands of hectares of fertile land seized and tens of thousands of Palestinian Arabs driven out. This national tragedy is Zionist genocide put into practice and it can neither be justified nor pardoned.

In October, 1977, the UN General Assembly unanimously condemned the unlawful acts by Israel to alter the legal status, the geography and the population distribution of occupied Arab territory. This resolution, which was supported by everyone except the Israeli representative, reflected the world's serious concern over Israel's refusal to withdraw from occupied Arab lands and her attempts to sabotage efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict. The Israelis reacted quickly and unambiguously: Prime Minister Begin announced that his government "would not consider itself bound by the UN resolution".

By now almost two and a half million Palestinians have been driven from their homeland, over a million remain in Israeli-occupied territory and tens of thousands have been killed, maimed or napalmed. The list of victims grows almost every day. Towns and villages in the Lebanon are bombed by the Israeli Air Force and shelled by the artillery and navy. The expansionists, however, are still not satisfied. Having proclaimed "historic right" as a "legal" principle, the Israeli parliament set out an official programme of creating a "great" Israel within its "biblical boundaries", that is from the Nile to the Euphrates, and the Lebanon is the next victim of this strategy. This is the only way to view the undeclared war which Tel Aviv is waging on its northern neighbour. Under the pretext of combatting "Arab terrorism", Israeli war-mongers have

effectively begun to clear "living space" in the southern Lebanon for future occupation.

Under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Palestinian Arabs in Israeli-occupied territory are stepping up the political, economic and guerilla struggle against the Tel Aviv regime. Alarmed by the growth of this struggle the government of Begin and Dayan, having refused to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation, are resorting to terror. Mass protests of Arabs on the West Bank of the Jordan and in the eastern part of Jerusalem were viciously suppressed this spring, and the Israeli authorities used army units in addition to the police force. Demonstrators were dispersed and hundreds were thrown into gaol and tortured. A well-known Israeli lawyer and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel Felizia Langer said that the Israeli authorities were behaving like nazis.

In March, 1979, a plenum of the Israeli Communist Party Central Committee passed a resolution saying that firing on demonstrating Arab schoolchildren and students and the outrages committed against women, children and the elderly on the occupied West Bank and against all those who are striving for freedom and peace, bring shame on Israel. These acts of barbarism show up the plans for the "autonomy" of the Palestinian Arabs in their true light and lay bare the reactionary aims of the Likud. The resolution strongly condemned the inhuman acts of the Israeli authorities and called upon all peace-loving and progressive people and all the honest citizens of Israel to raise their voices in protest against the campaign of terror in occupied Arab territory.

There can be no doubt that the conclusion of a separate "peace" treaty between Tel Aviv and Cairo has led to a sharp increase in Israeli terrorism in

occupied territory. Every day the teletypes of news agencies throughout the world tell of people being arrested, expelled or exiled, property confiscated and Arab houses destroyed on the West Bank and in the Gaza strip. According to the Paris newspaper, *Le Matin* (which no one would accuse of antipathy towards the Zionist movement or the Israeli leaders), since 1967, every second Palestinian has been in an Israeli gaol. In the past five years alone over 100,000 of the native Arab population have been forced to leave Palestinian territory occupied by the Israelis. These figures bear eloquent witness to the continued policy of genocide which is being carried out against the Palestinian Arabs.

The criminal deal between Begin and Sadat naturally excludes the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state on the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza strip. Under the conditions of this Middle East "Munich", the Arabs are not even promised an "autonomous territory", but just "autonomy for the population". This, at any rate, is what Menahem Begin has said. But even these cynical admissions by the Israeli Prime Minister constitute a mask, behind which the age-old strategies of the Jewish bourgeoisie and international Zionism are hiding.

The struggle for national liberation at present being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation is a fact of life. There can be no fair settlement of the Middle East question until the right of the Arabs in Palestine to self-determination and their own state, the right recognised by the United Nations, is granted. Peace will be established in the Middle East only when the Israelis withdraw from occupied Arab lands and the long-suffering Palestinians are given their lawful rights.

ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES

Every day in the Israeli newspapers advertisements appear for non-stop flights from Tel Aviv to Washington, New York or San Francisco. But the USA and Israel are linked by more than just direct air routes. It would be impossible to enumerate the close political, military and intelligence links binding them. American President Jimmy Carter has announced to the whole world that it would be better for him to commit political suicide than to neglect Israel's security.

These words scarcely need any comment. There are, however, two fundamental points to make. The first is that the president was no actually speaking of Israel's security. After all, the country is not being threatened. By "Israel's security" he meant the continued occupation by the Israeli aggressors of seized Arab land. The second point is that since Harry Truman every American president has made similar declarations of unswerving support for Israel.

The Americans, however, have offered more than just moral support to Israel. In the thirty years of its existence they have donated 60,000 million dollars to the Israeli economy, its armaments industry and its army. That makes 20,000 dollars for every Israeli citizen! And this at a time when there are tens of millions of Americans on the bread line or unemployed.

In the current financial year Israel will receive 42 per cent of the US foreign aid budget, 48 per cent of the budget for arms credit, and 56 per cent of all her arms subsidies to foreign powers. Even vice-president Walter Mondale has been forced to admit that no other country in the world receives so much from the USA.

So why is Israel so important to the American leaders?

Once, when the French parliament was debating oil imports, one of its members sarcastically remarked, "In the old days when we talked about scandals we used to say 'Look for the woman'. Now we ought to say 'Look for the oil!'" According to official US figures, the Middle East contains 70 per cent of all the oil reserves outside the socialist community. In the ten years preceding the energy crisis in the West, 1963-1973, the American monopolies received five dollars profit for every dollar invested in Middle East oil. Even the slave traders of ages past never dreamed of such fantastic profits.

In *Das Kapital,* Marx quotes an English journalist as saying: "With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent certain will produce eagerness; 50 per cent, positive audacity; 100 per cent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged."

American capital gets a 500 per cent return on Middle East oil. There is no crime against the Arab people, the owners of this oil, to which the heads of the American monopolies would not stoop.

The anti-Arab, pro-imperialist regime in Israel is standing watch for the American oil magnates, guarding them against the Arab revolution. The whole world witnessed the bombing of Syrian oil complexes in October, 1973. American Phantom jets were flown by pilots with dual nationality, American and Israeli, many of whom had been trained in the United States and had gained experience in Vietnam. No sooner had the Phantoms, with their Israeli markings, dropped their payloads on the Syr-

ian oil refineries than the shares of British and American oil companies shot up on the New York stock exchange.

It would be naive to suppose that the Israeli-American Phantoms are directed only towards the oil industry of the anti-imperialist Arab states. In Jerusalem they openly boast that Israeli pilots have maps marked with targets in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the whole Arab world, "just in case".

Imported Middle East oil is of considerable importance to Washington. In 1980, Arab "black gold" will make up 35 per cent, an appreciable proportion of US oil consumption. Deposits in American banks from the oil producers of the Persian Gulf, which in 1977-78 amounted to 54,000 million dollars, are also of exceptional importance to the US economy.

Israel's role as an instrument with which to suppress and break up the Arab national liberation movement is well known. Much has been written of the position occupied by Israel in the military strategy of the Pentagon, which is aimed at holding this exceptionally important region in its control, situated as it is at the corner of three parts of the world, Europe, Asia and Africa.

It is no accident that when the US Congress has discussed the foreign policy of the Carter administration, it has been pointed out that one of the most serious problems facing US policy-makers is the preservation of the Middle East and the Mediterranean area as a region for the effective deployment of American power. And, as Moshe Dayan and Menahem Begin have announced on a number of occasions, Israel is always ready to offer the USA her air and sea bases for making strikes against targets of Zionist imperialist aggression.

The profits the American monopolies receive in Israel exceed many dozens of times US investments

there and again it is the American taxpayer, not the monopolies, who pays. But there is another aspect to the problem: as Secretary of State Cyrus Vance announced in 1978, US exports to the Middle East have increased by 200 per cent in the past four years. The reactionary militaristic state of Israel plays a well-defined role in American economic exploitation by guarding over the interests of the American monopolies in this region.

Finally, Israel is a political tool with which to break up the Arab nation. Sadat's betrayal of the common Arab struggle against the Israelis is a persuasive example of this.

Nor must we underestimate the role which Israel, armed to the teeth by the Americans, could play in US military strategy in the event of conflict on a world scale.

In incorporating Israel into its economic, political and military plans the United States shows not the slightest concern for the fate of the people of the Middle East, whether Arab or Israeli. And whatever passionate declarations President Carter may make on this score, we must not forget about the billion-dollar profits being squeezed out of the people of the Middle East by the American oil and military-industrial monopolies aided by the Israelis.

THE JEWISH HOMELAND–A WICKED STEP-MOTHER

On the streets of Tel Aviv and other Israeli towns an unusual form of trading can be seen. On the pavement in the shade of the houses, or on the dusty roads, stand downcast men and women with baskets and bags full of household goods: sheets, towels, pots and pans. An especially high proportion of these "traders" are those who have recently

emigrated to the "Promised Land", as Israel is referred to by the Zionist propaganda.

These Israelis are selling off their goods and chattels not just because many families are no longer able to make ends meet (waves of inflation are engulfing Israel like the biblical flood), but also in order to scrape together enough money for the fare to America, Australia, New Zealand – anywhere just to get away from the "Jewish paradise".

Nowadays there are twice as many Israeli engineers in the United States and Canada as there are in Israel. In all, one-tenth of the population of Israel (or more precisely of the Jewish population of Israel), 350,000 people, live outside the country. Returning from a visit to the USA, Ariel Sharon, Agriculture Minister in Begin's government, said that New York was replacing Tel Aviv as the biggest Jewish town in the world. Another member of the Israeli cabinet, Moshe Dayan, has admitted that emigration is Israel's biggest problem. Some people believe that this sifting of Israeli Jews, both new immigrants *(olim)* and the original population, is a sign of the political crisis of Jewish immigration into Israel *(aliya)*.

From this conclusions can be drawn about the crisis in Zionism itself. For as the 29th Zionist Congress reaffirmed, "the state of Israel and the Zionist movement cannot exist without immigration. Return to Zion is the fundamental and unalterable principle of Zionism", it is "its heart and soul". However, it is as yet early to speak of any crisis. The crisis phenomenon of *aliya* does not, to my mind, lie on the surface but is a feature of the very essence of Zionist ideology and political practice, of which racism forms a large component.

The present-day Jewish population of Israel consists almost entirely of immigrants and their de-

scendants. According to President Yitzhak Navon, there were 3.1 million Jews living in Israel in 1978, from 102 different countries, speaking 51 languages. The absorption of immigrants, that is the transformation of hundreds of thousands of former citizens of many other countries, who as a rule have no common historical ties, culture, language or social values into a monolithic socio-political organism is in itself extremely difficult even under the best of circumstances. But Israel (the tool of American imperialism in the Middle East and of Zionist expansionism of the world-wide Jewish oligarchy) is a military camp, a garrison, with all that that entails. The mass exodus of Israelis from the "homeland for all the Jews" (another of Israel's names in Zionist propaganda) is, however, just one of the symptoms of the crisis facing Israeli society.

Racism and racial discrimination, however, are not only directed against the Arabs and other non-Jews, as the spirit and the letter of Judaism, the ideological basis of Zionism, would dictate. As the Polish journalist Andrziej Zeromski wrote in the book *West of the Jordan River,* "there is no more diversified population than that of Israel, horizontally, vertically, diagonally, chequered or in the round. In an effort to simplify the problem, they claim that this diversity follows ethnic divisions". The lowest position in Israel is occupied by Jews from Asia and Africa, the so-called Sephardim, who form the majority of the Jewish population of the "Promised Land". The very existence of the problem of the Sephardim is a concrete demonstration of the failure of Zionist methods of absorption. Most of the Sephardim were either among the original settlers in Israel or were their descendants. When the state of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, 15 per cent of the population of 649,600 Jews were Sephardim.

Immediately afterwards, when the government embarked on its path of anti-Arab expansionism, a four-year campaign of psychological warfare led by Prime Minister David Ben Gourion was waged in a number of Arab countries: Iraq, Egypt, Yemen and Morocco, aimed at urging the local Jewish population to emigrate to Israel. This campaign, partially aided by the Israeli secret service, had such code names as "Ali Baba", "Magic Carpet" and "The Salvation of the Moroccan Jews".

Zionist agents provocateurs whipped up an artificial antisemitic psychosis in the Arab countries, spread rumours of pogroms, arranged for Jewish shops to be burned down, synagogues to be violated and members of local Jewish communities to be assaulted. As a consequence, a proportion of the Arab Jews emigrated to Israel. There was a sharp increase in the absolute figures for immigration, which totalled 684,900 for the period 1948-1951, that is 171,200 a year. In the years which followed immigration declined sharply and only occasionally topped 50,000 a year. In all, the proportion of Sephardim among the immigrants between 1948 and 1951 was 75 per cent. At present the total number of "Eastern Jews" including 40,000 so-called "Georgian Jews" has reached 52-60 per cent. According to the London journal, *The Middle East,* the most important internal change that has taken place in Israel since its founding 30 years ago, has been the change in the constitution of its population, the "Sephardisation" of the Zionist state.

The main aim of Ben Gourion's administration in implanting the "Eastern Jews" into Israel was to guarantee a "reliably Jewish" work force in agriculture and industry. This work force would be anti-Arab but on a lower social level than the immigrants from Europe and America, the "white"

Jews or Ashkenazi. In the early days of Israel's existence, great emphasis was placed on the creation of a "racially pure Jewish state". And since one of Tel Aviv's many myths is that of "free Jewish immigration" (which in fact takes place with the help of Zionist organisations and which accounts for its selectivity), the Sephardim constituted a significant percentage of the immigrants right up to 1967.

In 1978, a member of the Israeli parliament, Yadin, said, "Ben Gourion was right to welcome hundreds of thousands of Eastern Jews with open arms to the young state. His error lay in not foreseeing that their absorption would constitute such a serious problem." According to the well-known Israeli politician, Avneri, nowadays there are in effect two Jewish "nations" in the country, the Western and the Eastern Jews. This is an exaggeration, of course, but the fact remains that it is impossible to speak of the large-scale absorption of the Sephardim immigrants in Israel. The Eastern Jews and their descendants have a considerably different status from the Western Jews, who stand on the topmost rungs of the racist ladder of social and political inequality in Israel. Here are some figures from Israeli sources. According to the newspaper *Haaretz* while the overall level of illiteracy stood at 13 per cent in 1978, the level of illiteracy among the Sephardim totalled 60 per cent. The proportion of Sephardi students among the Jewish student population in Israel for that year did not exceed 17 per cent, a figure which itself is undoubtedly exaggerated. The secretary of the Black Panthers organisation, Kohen, said: "It's all very simple. Fifty-six per cent of the Jewish population of Israel are of eastern origin. One can safely say that the whole of this sector of the population keenly feels discrimination in the field of culture while 80 per cent suffer economic

discrimination. In the field of culture the picture is as follows: 68 per cent of primary schoolchildren are Eastern Jews, while in the grammar schools they account for 18 per cent and in higher education only eight per cent. This leads to the cultural backwardness of the family. In addition, the schools in the eastern quarters are poor, and have bad teachers. The eastern quarters of our towns are the breeding grounds of drug addiction and prostitution."

Like the Arabs, the Sephardim are generally given heavy, low-paid work, for example on building sites or as casual labourers. According to the *Encyclopedia of Zionism and Israel,* the average annual net income of the urban Ashkenazi family is 3,700 dollars and that of the Sephardim 2,800 dollars. There is also a glaring difference in housing conditions between the Ashkenazi and the Sephardim. Only 5.8 per cent of American or European Jewish families have to live more than three to a room but for Jewish families from Asia and Africa, the figure is 35.5 per cent. Sephardim frequently cram nine or ten people into a single room.

Discrimination against the Sephardim is particularly noticeable in the Israeli army. Lt.-General Mordechai Gur, in his capacity as the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defence Forces, said, with military directness, that it would be many years before the Sephardi Jews would be in a position to become senior officers. In addition, the "Israeli negroes" (to use Kohen's term) constituted the bulk of the Israeli troops killed during the October war of 1973.

Naturally, it does not follow from this that there are no deprived or oppressed Jews of European or American extraction, particularly among recent immigrants. The figures for class differences in Israel

are well known. According to the latest official statistics, almost a third of all Israelis live below the poverty line. Nonetheless, the majority of these are Sephardim. The problem of the "Eastern" Jews in Israel is both a class and ethnic problem.

The Sephardim are not just socially isolated, they are geographically isolated too. They are usually settled in the least habitable regions, in particular the Negev desert. In the towns they live in special "eastern" quarters, ghettos, where poverty, crime and prostitution are widespread.

The demography of Israel and the way it is changing is arousing serious concern among Zionist leaders today. According to the calculations of the Research Service of the US Library of Congress, given an annual total of 25,000 Jewish immigrants, Arabs in Israel (within the boundaries existing up until June 5, 1967) will outnumber the Jews by the year 2079. If, however, Israel keeps control of the Gaza strip and the West Bank of the Jordan, which she seized during the June War of 1967, the process will be considerably accelerated. Israel will have turned into a state with an Arab majority and a large "eastern" element in the Jewish section of the population by the beginning of the next century. International Zionist leaders and the ruling circles in Israel consider the "Lebanonisation" of the country just as much a threat to Zionism as the progressive assimilation of Jews in the rest of the world, including the USA.

As D. Levi, Minister of Immigrant Absorption, said in 1978, "the Jews will become a minority in Israel". As mentioned earlier, it was only during the first four years of Israel's existence, in 1948-1951, that the average annual level of "netto-*aliya*" was reasonably high. In subsequent years this level did not exceed 22-24,000 per year. Even the boom

in immigration between 1968 and 1973, which was a consequence of the chauvinistic euphoria which gripped a sizable proportion of the Jewish population living in capitalist countries, did not have a significant effect on these figures.

The proportion of "Eastern" Jews in Israel is growing not only because of the higher birth rate among the Sephardim in comparison to "Western" Jews but also because few Sephardim leave Israel. Being poor and discriminated against they have nothing and nowhere to aim for.

Zionist leaders calculate that in order to avoid the "Lebanonisation" of Israel it is essential not only to raise the level of "netto-*aliya*" to a minimum of 25,000 per year but also to ensure that this figure is basically made up of "Western" Jews. In the 1960's Zionism's most pressing task was seen as reaching a target for immigration into Israel of more than half the Jewish population of the world in order to turn Israel into a genuine "metropolis" of "the whole Jewish nation".

This programme, however, is meeting with difficulties because of the position of the Jewish bourgeoisie in the imperialist system, and correspondingly the place of Zionism in the policy of the Jewish financial oligarchy, whose ultimate aim is maximum consolidation of its position in the capitalist world. The most important feature of this trend is the attempt of the American Jewish bourgeoisie to maintain and strengthen its position as the "centre" of "the world's Jewry".

This latter explains the apparently anomalous fact that although there are 5.8 million Jews in the United States, who constitute the largest Jewish community in the world, and more than 300 Zionist organisations, the level of immigration to Israel from the USA is negligible in absolute terms. On

the other hand there are organisations such as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and Joint which encourage and even finance Jewish immigration to the USA, in particular of former Soviet citizens, and also willingly find room for emigrants from Israel.

Thus the large American Jewish community can be viewed more as a centre to which *yordim* [1] and Jewish emigrants from other countries gravitate than as a source for *olim*, and the Zionist leaders along with the ruling circles of Israel cannot but take account of this fact. It is for this reason that in the mid-1960's the Zionists decided to step up *aliya* from the USSR where, according to the 1970 census, 2,151,000 persons of Jewish extraction were living. By the end of the 1960's American political observers were remarking that "the Zionists are casting greedy glances at Soviet Jewry". The question of stimulating the mass emigration of Soviet Jews was raised at the 27th Zionist Congress in 1968 and a resolution passed at the Congress called upon the Soviet government to "change its position" over the question of the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. At the same time, point 3 of the New Programme of Jerusalem, which was ratified at the Congress, called for efforts to be directed towards gathering the Jewish nation to its "historical homeland", "the Land of the Israelites", by means of maximum *aliya*. In fact, there was just one item on the agenda of the 28th Zionist Congress held in 1972: the stepping up of immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. This Congress passed a special resolution demanding that the struggle "against the Soviet policy of not allowing Jews to leave for their historical homeland" be intensified.

[1] Yordim—emigrants from Israel.

By the beginning of the 1970's the main trend in the foreign policy of Israel's ruling circles and of international Zionism as a whole in the area of immigration was stirring up the desire of the Jews in the Soviet Union to emigrate. As a consequence, Israeli foreign policy and that of Zionism as a whole took a sharp anticommunist and anti-Soviet swing. Indeed anticommunist and anti-Soviet propaganda became the main weapon in this struggle. The 18th Congress of the Israeli Communist Party held in 1976 noted: "Anticommunism and anti-Sovietism have become part of official Israeli foreign policy."

But it would be incorrect to assume that the aim of anticommunist and anti-Soviet propaganda is solely to brainwash Soviet Jews. The present specific situation is overlaid by the dialectics of Zionism as a whole and its concrete manifestation in the form of the Israeli regime. This regime constitutes an important wing of imperialism, at the basis of which lies the struggle against communism, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, and against all the forces of peace, progress and national and social liberation.

Thus, when considering Israeli propaganda and the Israeli attitude towards the emigration of Soviet Jews, it is worth bearing in mind the words of Wolf Ehrlich, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, in his book *The Theory and Practice of Zionism:* "The main motivation behind the anti-Soviet campaign over the 'Jewish question' currently being waged by government circles in Israel is not just connected with their efforts to entice as many Jews as possible into the country to serve as cannon fodder, work force, settlers for occupied territory or military specialists. Although these factors are very important they are not the basic ones, for by the same token

the same sort of campaign could be waged against the United States as is being waged against the Soviet Union. But the propaganda is directed specifically against the Soviet Union while it tries its best not even to mention occurrences of antisemitism in the capitalist countries."

At the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of Israel it was emphasised that "the incitement against the USSR is based on slanderous claims that Soviet Jews suffer discrimination, and that they must therefore be 'saved'. This hostile propaganda has nothing to do with a concern for Soviet Jews, it is a re-kindling of the 'Cold War'."

FACTS THE ISRAELIS FAIL TO MENTION

Facts and figures are the best way to refute Zionist inventions about "official antisemitism" in the Soviet Union.

Soviet Jews are given every opportunity to obtain secondary and higher education and to take part in the development of multinational Soviet culture. There are more Jews per thousand of population in the Soviet Union with higher education than in any other country of the world. The proportion of those with higher and specialised secondary education among Jews in the USSR stands at 14 per cent. This is the highest figure for education among Jews in the world, including Israel, where the level is 11.9 per cent.

Jewish literature in the USSR is one of the 76 national literatures which has preserved its own unique traditions and techniques. Yiddish writers belong to the professional association, the Writers' Union, and enjoy all the rights of membership. According to official figures, between 1967 and 1972

alone books by 114 Jewish authors were published in the languages of the Soviet Union in a total printing of 17 million copies, including 31 books in Yiddish with a print of 125,000. One of these books was *Anthology of Modern Jewish Writing* which comprised 50 short stories by Soviet Jewish writers and also stories by Jewish authors from other countries, including Israel. Every month in Moscow the literary magazine *Sowetisch Geimland* (The Soviet Homeland) is published in a printing of 25,000 copies.

The entrenchment of the Soviet way of life and the sweeping social and economic changes it has entailed, the bringing together of nations and the natural, voluntary assimilation that has taken place during the past fifty years among the Jewish population of the USSR, have to a large extent determined its path of cultural development. Jews have made a sizable contribution to the furtherance of Soviet culture.

Writers such as Samuel Marshak, Ilya Erenburg, Pavel Antokolsky, Vera Inber, Edward Bagritsky, Isaac Babel, Immanuel Kazakevich, Mikhail Svetlov, Julian Semyonov and Nathan Rybak are widely appreciated both among Soviet and foreign readers.

The world-famous violinists, the late David Oistrakh and Leonid Kogan, the outstanding ballerina, Maya Plisetskaya, well-known film directors such as Mikhail Romm, Mark Donskoy, Grigori Roshal, Sergei Yutkevich, Roman Karmen, Bolshoi Theatre star Mark Reizen, and leading actors such as Leonid Utyosov and Arkady Raikin have all won respect throughout the Soviet Union and abroad. Other fields of the arts in Soviet Jewish culture such as music and the theatre have also flourished. There are Jewish theatre companies in Moscow, Birobidjan, Vilnius, Kaunas and other Soviet towns.

The Soviet state offered its Jews an opportunity of self-determination: on May 7, 1934, by decree of the All-Union Central Executive Committee (which was then the name of the highest body of state authority in the USSR) the Jewish Autonomous Region was founded.

This was an event of great political significance. Along with other national states of Soviet formation, the Jewish Autonomous Region sends representatives to the Union and Republican parliaments. In the space of a few decades the area has become a flourishing industrial and agricultural region, whose economy, science and culture are developing at a rapid rate. The workers of its towns and villagers are making a worthy contribution to the development of the multinational Soviet state. In gratitude for its labour and services the Region has been awarded the highest decoration in the land, the Order of Lenin.

Progressive Jewish culture has developed in the USSR in a way unparalleled in any other country, including both the USA, where the majority of the world's Jews live, and Israel. As far as the Zionist conception of "Jewish national culture" is concerned, according to the American Jewish scholar, Zvi Gitelman of Princeton University, this culture has always been of a religious nature, based on the Old Testament and the Talmud. But what use is such a culture in Russia and the Ukraine, where most of Soviet Jews live, if only six per cent are believers? Nevertheless there are 92 synagogues in the USSR and over 300 meeting-houses. Freedom of worship and the observance of religious rites and customs including Jewish ones, is guaranteed under Soviet law.

Zionist claims of the "oppression"and "persecution" of Jews in the USSR are ridiculous and their

efforts to break up the unity of the nationalities of the Soviet Union by means of such propaganda are doomed to failure.

Zionist anticommunist and anti-Soviet propaganda, however, has found active support among the ruling circles of a number of capitalist countries, in particular in the NATO bloc, headed by the USA. Far-reaching strategic aims lie behind this, by the admission of Jewish emigrants from the USSR. Thus, in February, 1977, a large group of *yordim* from Israel, former Soviet citizens, sent a letter from Vienna to the UN Secretary-General in which they said that the real reason they had been induced to leave the USSR could be summed up by saying "We were motivated in the main by a philistine state of mind". And it is no accident that, according to Zionist figures, 60 per cent of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union go not to Israel but to the developed capitalist countries.

On close examination, the "national revival of Soviet Jewry" which Zionist propaganda has been making so much noise about, turns out to be merely the endeavour of a few people with a petty-bourgeois mentality to get to live in what they consider to be a more suitable social environment. As the Israeli magazine *Zion* (February, 1978) admits, a certain proportion of these "Jewish revivalists" consists of "heroes of the black market and other such criminals".

In recent years, in order to attract more "Western" immigrants (including those from the USSR), the Israeli government has taken a number of measures to put new immigrants in a privileged position vis-à-vis other Israelis. As a result the ever-present friction between the newcomers and others, especially the Sephardim, has been increasing. Immigrants from the USSR are particularly subject to

attack, even to the extent of physical violence. As Zionist sources have commented, 60 per cent of all "Eastern" Jews and 66 per cent of people between the age of 18 and 29 reckon that the main reason for Israel's present economic difficulties is the number of immigrants from the Soviet Union.

The facts show that immigration into Israel is on the wane while migration from the country is increasing. It is characteristic that, as the Israeli press pointed out, even the 4,000 colonialist Jews fleeing from South Rhodesia between 1971 and 1978, following the successes of the national liberation movement there, have preferred to settle in the USA, Canada or Australia rather than Israel.

For the vast majority of immigrants to Israel the "Zionist paradise" turns out to mean a shortage of living space, lack of adequate work, a lowering of social status and of material living standards, and hostility from those already living in the country. In other words it is very likely that immigration will be curtailed and hence the rate of population growth from *aliya* will diminish. Apart from this it must be borne in mind that official figures for emigration from Israel are gross underestimates because many emigrants leave secretly. Following a special inquiry, the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics ascertained that in 1970, 2,560 emigrants "disappeared" without notifying the authorities. Even representatives of the local "establishment" have started to leave the country. There have been cases of leading Israeli diplomats refusing to return home.

It is logical to suppose that the curtailment of immigration to Israel (especially of "Western" Jews), leading to the complete cessation of *aliya*, and the unabated "Lebanonisation" of the country will result in an unavoidable drop in the Jewish population in both relative and absolute figures. Thus the general

tendency is for the progressive efflux of Jews from Israel, and the "dilution" of the "Jewish state".

During the parliamentary elections of spring 1977, the Zionist leaders managed to pull a neat political trick in turning the growing discontent of the Sephardim against the ruling Labour Party, which had traditionally been considered a party of the Ashkenazis. As a result the extreme right-wing Likud Party led by Menahem Begin came to power. But the replacement of one set of extremists by another has done nothing to alter the class nature of the Zionist regime in Israel or the hopeless position of the Sephardi majority. Thus, that Zionist buttress of imperialism in the Middle East, the state of Israel, remains for many hundreds of thousands of Jews a cruel and wicked step-mother.

A LAND OF CRIME

Let us leaf through the Israeli newspapers over the last years 1978-1979. The armed robbery of a Jerusalem bank warranted just a dozen lines. It was such an everyday occurrence. *Maariv* published two reports together side by side. One had the headline "Child kidnapper gets five years", the other "End paper thieving". The first concerned an escaped convict who had kidnapped a four-year-old girl as a hostage and threatened to kill her if the police didn't let him go free. The second told of a gang of crooks who had stolen newspapers from mailboxes and sold them in Tel Aviv kiosks.

The editorial office of *Maariv* had no special purpose in putting these two reports together. It is simply that material coming under one general heading happened to have been arranged like that. But the result was a visible testimony to the range

of crime in present-day Israel – from the theft of newspapers to child kidnapping. And this is the country which the Zionists call the "Promised Land". As for quantitative figures, according to the Ministry of the Interior, from 1977 to 1978 the incidence of robbery increased by 62 per cent, car thefts by 280 per cent, embezzlement by 170 per cent and murders and attacks by armed gangs increased three-fold.

The Tel Aviv press has published a few live reports. A girl was walking along the street minding her own business. Suddenly she was hit in the thigh by a bullet. But there was no sound of a gun-shot. The bullet came from an air rifle. The attack was completely unmotivated. Three young lads had simply decided to have a lark. But "the most intellectual country in the world" as the Zionist advertisements call Israel already has its fill of hooligans.

Israeli motorists are also getting indignant. It is rare for a car to go from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem without being damaged. Stones are thrown at lorries, buses and vans, breaking windows and windscreens and injuring drivers and passengers. The newspapers publish angry letters from victims who are astonished at the inactivity of the police. "Acts of hooliganism like vandalising telephone booths and stealing cars, motorbikes and cycles have become everyday occurrences," writes a Mr. Herber in a letter to *Maariv*. "People are afraid to go out in the streets at night, parents and husbands are obliged to meet their children and wives at bus stops!" writes a Mrs. Gorodetzky from Jerusalem. "Our guardians of public order just laugh at the sufferings of the victims. Teenage vandals are making life unbearable."

The newspaper *Davar* reports that one Saturday thieves broke into the safe of the religious council

in Haifa and stole the funds of the local rabbis. The humour of the situation, as the paper pointed out, lies in the fact that there is a strict Judaic law which prohibits Israeli citizens to do any kind of work on Saturdays. The thieves took no notice of this spiritual ban, justly considering it a medieval relic.

"A farmer, Mr. Aizenberg, was killed with his own pistol," writes *Maariv*. Thieves had stolen his crop of oranges and gone to ground. The pillage of farms in Israel has become a common occurrence," the paper concludes. Indeed, nearly every day there are newspaper reports of "the epidemic of crop thefts" which gripped Israel in 1977. According to the Trade Union paper *Haaretz*, 32 million lire worth of crops were stolen in 1978. These thefts are carried out by "well-organised professionals with their own transport. The stolen oranges are exported abroad. The gangs are well armed and led by ex-soldiers."

Criminality is permeating the whole fabric of society including marital relations. On May 17, 1978, Tamar Kaufman wrote in *The Jerusalem Post* that between 30,000 and 50,000 wives are beaten by their husbands every year. How many more Israeli wives keep their humiliation to themselves? But women in Israel are humiliated in many other ways too. A member of the Israeli parliament, Gamir, has warned that the number of child prostitutes is rising alarmingly. She demanded the legalisation of prostitution, for health reasons, and suggested setting up special red-light districts in Tel Aviv. And in a television broadcast the mayor of Tel Aviv, Shlomo Lahat, said, "Prostitution is the background of Israeli life and it must be recognised by the law."

A Jerusalem criminologist, Amir, has given precise figures: there are 1,000 prostitutes registered

with the police, of whom 600 are in Tel Aviv, 80 in Jerusalem and 40 in Haifa. But actual numbers exceed these figures by several hundreds (!). The majority are teenagers from Europe or local girls. Young women who have been recently demobbed make up a particularly large proportion. Military service is compulsory for many women even in peacetime. Amir draws the conclusion that "the barracks-like existence imposed by the state has a pernicious effect on the moral fibre of young people". This judgement speaks for itself.

Israel has also been swept by a wave of drug addiction. Police files list the names of 14,000 addicts, among them many schoolchildren and students. The Ministry of Health has reported that between 1975 and 1978 the number of addicts doubled. Quite an extraordinary record!

A total of 14,000 registered addicts in a population of 3.5 million, altogether about 0.5 per cent, is not a very large figure. But it must be borne in mind that in capitalist countries the actual number of addicts generally exceeds the number registered by several times. In *The Jerusalem Post*, of June 12, 1978, it was reported that there are 10,000 addicts in Tel Aviv alone. And this paper, which is published in English and intended mainly for English-speaking readers outside Israel, can hardly be accused of any prejudice against the regime.

An independent witness, though again favourable to Israel, is the Swiss paper *Tribune de Geneve* which writes that the actual number of addicts in Israel is 100,000. As the paper stresses, drug addiction has even permeated the army. The figure of 100,000 seems closer to the truth: in West Germany and the USA, for instance, the total number of addicts is eight or ten times greater than the number registered and the percentage of the population ad-

dicted to narcotics in the USA and West Germany is lower than in Israel.

The most important point, however, is that the list of registered addicts includes students in higher education, schoolchildren, workers and soldiers. Dr. Roze from Jerusalem, in a letter to *Davar*, expressed his concern about "the increase in drug abuse among students". In other words, drug abuse has become a feature of all strata of society among young Israelis, even among the student body, who are generally from well-to-do families. In answer to journalists, young drug users reply quite frankly that the main reason they resort to drugs is that they live in perpetual fear of another war with the Arabs which could again carry off thousands of young Israeli lives.

A special government-level interdepartmental committee has recently been set up to tackle the problem of drug addiction. Raids on chemists' shops for drugs have become a common event. Shades of New York! In January, 1978, for instance, the pharmacy department of a clinic in Jerusalem, the Kupat Holim Leumit, was robbed of drugs worth 150,000 lire. This in itself is a substantial sum, but the profit on it could be many times greater, for the Israeli mafia has moved into the world market. In West Germany, *Die Welt* reported that "eight Israelis arrested in West Germany in connection with the sale of heroin worth 600,000 pounds to dealers and American servicemen have been standing trial in Frankfurt-am-Main. This, however, is in the absence of the main suspect, 29-year-old Amial, who is alleged to have organised the illegal delivery of the heroin from Amsterdam. Among the accused are two ex-parachutists from the crack Israeli commando division, one of whom, a 36-year-old Jerusalem farmer, Rimon, was decorated 'for

gallantry' in the October war of 1973. The fact that the Israeli mafia is involved in drug rings in West Germany is arousing concern."

In his speech addressed to the Israeli parliament, the Chief of Police admitted, in a voice almost choked by emotion, that his men were not able to cope with the sudden rise in the crime rate. And this is despite the fact that in Tel Aviv there is one policeman to every 585 civilians.

The government took its latest measures in the fight against hooliganism and armed crime in 1979 by mobilising frontier guards to help the police. There is every reason to suppose that they will need all their military training: teenage vandals use only air rifles and bricks but armed robbers carry pistols and automatic weapons. In addition, in the autumn of 1978, US police uncovered the armoury of a group of gangsters. Among the usual cache of pistols and revolvers they were astonished to find a Redeye anti-aircraft rocket launcher. Israel is still a little behind the USA in this respect, but not much. In the words of Inspector Rosolio of the Tel Aviv force, "These criminals have plenty of guns. Recently it has become common for them to use grenades and explosives. Most of these crimes are committed in public places."

So where do all these arms come from? On March 21, 1977, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that a gang led by two deserters, 19-year-old Dahoah and 20-year-old Ziv, raided an army arsenal and stole 34 Uzzi automatics. This weapon is the favourite among gangsters. It can be fired with the left hand while carrying the stolen goods with the right.

The Jerusalem correspondent of *Die Welt* reports that "thousands of Israelis keep huge stocks of illegal arms, not to mention those carried by dischar-

ged servicemen. And by no means all of the owners are peaceful citizens. Criminals are making increasingly frequent use of fire-arms. There have been innumerable raids but those responsible for public order try in vain to pretend that this is not organised crime. Nevertheless there are 70,000 arrests every year, and 70,000 in a population of three million points to a serious malady."

So that's the diagnosis but what is the cause of it all?

As in any society which has millionaires and beggars, the main cause of the crime wave in Israel is social inequality. For the 150 members of the political, administrative and economic elite in Israel there are tens of thousands of deprived people. As the Director of the National Insurance, Israel Katz, has publicly announced, "250,000 Israeli citizens live below the poverty line". For which statement he earned from the Minister of Finance the epithets of "demagogue", "distorter" and even "firebrand".

Facts from official Israeli sources, however, speak for themselves. More than a quarter of all Israeli children under the age of 14 are regularly undernourished, 25,000 children are unable to go to school and roughly 51 per cent of Israelis earn less than the official minimum wage. Prices rose by 40 per cent in 1978. The national debt stands at 7,700 million dollars. Having been turned into a nation-wide barracks, a Middle East military base for the Americans, Israel's record has gone from bad to worse. She leads the world in defence spending, per capita taxation and the growth of drug addiction.

What are the reasons for all this? Firstly, the militaristic policy pursued by Tel Aviv, and secondly, the wholesale robbery of Israelis by all manner of

dealers and swindlers, including highly-placed civil servants. The former General Secretary of the trade union Histadrut (General Federation of Labour), Ben Aharon, admitted that "in Israel has grown up a neocapitalist community of over 100,000 profiteers." This is also something of a record: one con man per 30 head of population.

In addition to all this, as Terence Smith reported in *The New York Times* in an article entitled "Life Style for Affluent Israelis", there are 200 millionaires in Israel, which is almost the same proportion of the population as in Miami Beach. But Israel is more than just a bourgeois state, it is the most militaristic state in the world. According to calculations of the Institute for Strategic Studies in London, Israel's military spending is the highest in the world, amounting to more than 1,000 dollars per head of population. There can be no doubt that the rise in vandalism and crime is a result of the poisoned, "besieged camp" atmosphere in Israel today.

Yet another story from *Davar*, with the headline "Father of Seven Shot". A 45-year-old father of seven, Mr. Ajami, entered a café and stood in the doorway looking for a table. Suddenly a burst of automatic fire hit him in the chest. The gunman was a soldier who was sitting with some friends in the café. "The motive is unclear," said the newspaper, without giving the name of the murderer. But this particular mystery is easy to solve even without the aid of the lie detectors with which the Israeli police are supplied: the victim was an Arab. Naturally, the Israeli press did not follow up the course of the investigation into the murder, and the killer himself was sent home.

The rise in crime and violence among Israel's youth is programmed into the education system it-

self. Competent observers point out that even in school boys and girls have the dogmas of Zionism drummed into them, about how Jews are the "Chosen People", how every Jew is "a born genius" and that for a Jew anything goes.

The uninterrupted piratical raids against Palestinian refugee camps in the Lebanon, the undeclared war which has been waged for years, the attempts to suppress the Arab struggle by using the methods of terrorism, have become part of everyday life in Israel. But time and again history has proved that hatred, evil and aggression against one's fellowmen have never served to unite the country perpetrating the aggression. For Israel, too, the war abroad is progressively turning into banditry at home.

"WHEN A THIEF IS NEEDED. . ."

Crime in Israel in recent years has become increasingly organised along the lines of the American mafia. This is an open secret in Israel. Poisoned by Israeli nationalism and the Judaic myth of the Jew as a superman, Israelis to some extent even like to brag about their own faults.

On December 10, 1976, *The Jerusalem Post* Sunday supplement published an extensive and laudatory review of the memoirs of a gangster, Willie Sutton, "Where the Money Was: the Memoirs of a Bank Robber". The adventures of this safe-breaker, for whom bank robbery had become a profession in early youth, were advertised in glowing terms. It is logical to ask why a bandit at the turn of the century should arouse so much interest. It was not because he was a Jew (in fact he was Irish), and by all accounts he had never donated a penny to the Jewish National Fund. The answer is that Zion-

ism has always been closely connected with the criminal fraternity and their methods. Let us look at one or two of the most closely-guarded secrets of the Israeli bosses.

Las Vegas is only a town in the technical sense of the word. From any other point of view it is a huge industrial combine for the manufacture of an end product from raw materials by means of a fairly simple process. The peculiarity of the product is that there is no need for it to participate in the classical "money-goods-money" cycle in order to accrue a profit. The raw materials used in Las Vegas are people with money and the desired end product is money without people. This cycle is accomplished in 23 gaming houses, 11 casino-hotels, and hundreds of gaming machines. "Work" goes on round the clock, every day of the year.

Gentlemen with fat wallets set off down the avenues of the famous "Strip" to test their gambling nerves, often preferring roulette in the fashionable *Flamingo* hotel. Another part of town is frequented by the working people. The casinos here are noisy, sleazy places, the clientèle are mainly cowboys, miners, farmers, clerks, workers, taxi drivers, chorus girls and pensioners.

The casinos of Las Vegas are the territory of the "unseen government" of the USA, the Mafia. Doing business on the fruit of criminal activity has long been an integral part of the capitalist system in the West. The Mafia then sinks its capital into "legal" business and the banks willingly accept the proceeds. A tidy proportion of the harvest reaped from the Las Vegas gaming tables finds its way into numbered accounts in "ultra-respectable" banks of the financial empires of Lehman, Khun, Rothschild and other well-known patrons of Zionism and the

ruling circles in Israel. The secret of this symbiosis is easy to explain.

During the 1930's, New York's Jewish criminal underworld was headed by Benny Siegel and Meyr Lansky. In the autumn of 1931, they established "business" relations with the American representatives of the Sicilian Mafia and together with Costello, Accardo and Marcello took control of the Las Vegas gambling business. At the same time a syndicate of hired murderers was formed, Murder Incorporated. In a world of monopolies this bloody trade became a monopoly too. As it happened the Mafia had formed partnerships with other "clans" of gangsters before. During the prohibition period, for instance, the mafiosi successfully collaborated with Irish bootleggers in New York's West Side and Greenwich Village. Later it was the Puerto Ricans' turn. This, however, all paled into insignificance in comparison with the partnership they formed with the Jewish gangsters and their Zionist connections. Not even the unbreakable solidarity of American congressmen, governers, judges and smart operators of the business world could compare. The Mafia had to reconcile itself to the activity of its Zionist partners who had better connections than they had, who were no less shrewd and go-getting and no less able to keep their mouths shut and do favours. As a consequence, Las Vegas, and indeed the most part of the American underground, was divided between these two "superpowers". By the time the State of Israel was formed, Lansky had reached the heights of the American criminal hierarchy – the ex-hoodlum had become the "chief accountant" of the Mafia and one of the leaders of Murder Incorporated. But to survive so long in a society where the usual "means of production" are knife and pistol, to reach the top of such a pyramid

of crime, you need to be more than just a "superhood", you need to be ultrasmart and ultrafarsighted. And this explains the decision of the Mafia headed by Lansky to sink their capital into Israel, disguised naturally as a selfless donation.When considering the size of this donation it must be borne in mind that the annual income of the Mafia is greater than the value of all the stocks and shares sold in a year on the New York Stock Exchange! Lansky's own personal fortune is reckoned at 300 million dollars.

When things got hot in the States, Lansky asked Golda Meir for asylum. The services of American gangsters to Zionism had been so great, apparently, that the Tel Aviv authorities considered offering Israeli citizenship not only to Lansky but to other American Mafia leaders, such as Spiegelblum, Roza and Marcus. Admittedly, these requests later had to be turned down, but that is another story. There is no doubt that the Israeli leaders were quite prepared to cooperate with the criminal world.

There have been reports that the World Zionist Organisation was tipped off by Lansky and his secretary (who had connections with Jacob Rubinstein, alias Jack Ruby, the man who killed Harvey Oswald), about the Mafia's plans to assassinate President Kennedy. But the Zionist leaders did as little as they could to prevent this from taking place. The young president was not as complaisant about Israel's plans for aggression as some of his successors have been.

The Mafia not only supplies Zionist terrorist organisations with its own "instructors" and "experts" but also offers generous financial aid. The financial means of organised crime in America are well known. In 1977, the turnover of the "firm" was 48,000 million dollars with a profit of 25,300 mil-

lion. By comparison the gross revenue of the Pentagon's biggest suppliers, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, in 1975, stood at just 3,400 million or one-eighth of that sum.

As the Hamburg magazine, *Der Spiegel*, writes, "Israel encourages the immigration of Jewish American Mafia into the country, so as to use them in the fight against the Arabs." Home-grown Israeli lockpicks and gunmen are used for the same purpose. The Arab press has reported that the Israeli High Command uses old lags as cannon fodder, rewarding them with release from prison. And considering the level of crime in Israel today, then clearly the Israeli Army is guaranteed a continuous supply of such personnel. As the Jewish proverb has it "when a thief is needed they'll take him from the gallows".

TRADING IN DEATH

In November, 1977, Washington's *Sheraton Park* hotel was packed with colonels and generals from the Pentagon, viewing the latest models of military hardware exhibited by leading American arms manufacturers. Representatives of General Dynamics, Lockheed, Litton Industries, Inc. and other "monopolies of death" engaged in heated discussions with their future customers in their dark-green dress uniforms. But the centre of attention for the purveyors of tanks and rockets was a group of civilians with sunburnt faces. "Israelis!" the generals all whispered to one another.

Israel has long been the main rival of the Pentagon for the purchase of American arms, as can be seen from the official statistics. It is no secret that

the Israeli arms purchasing mission in the USA has twice as many personnel as the Israeli embassy.

Less well known is the fact that scouts for American monopolies are scouring Israel. At the beginning of 1978, a group of "researchers" from two of the biggest super-corporations in the USA, Kaiser Aluminum and General Motors, which are among the 200 biggest companies in the capitalist world, made an extended trip to Israel. According to the Israeli press, these emissaries came to examine the possibilities of producing aluminium and aluminium cylinder blocks for further treatment in the Common Market countries. According to the American experts, production would be far cheaper in Israel than in America or Europe.

But why should this be? After all, Israel is poor in mineral deposits and sources of electricity, such as are essential for smelting aluminium. Nor is there an abundance of qualified manpower in the country. A sizable proportion of the country's work force is deployed in the army, the police and in ad hoc reserve groups.

But the capitalists know what they are about. They have an eye for the main chance and do not like to put their money into something which does not promise to be profitable. So how are the men from Kaiser Aluminum and General Motors intending to make good in Israel? The answer to this question comes from the International Monetary Fund. In the USA, Canada and Japan average profit margins are 5-7 per cent, in Europe, roughly 10, in Latin America, 12 and in South Africa, 24. In Israel the figure is 21.5 per cent. Profit is the driving force behind the mobility of capital, and if capital migrates abroad it is not because it cannot find any application at home, but because it can accrue better profits elsewhere.

How is it that American and European capital in "democratic" Israel makes almost as much profit as in racist South Africa, which can exploit black Africans as forced labour? The answer is that Israeli shop-floor and blue-collar workers earn far less than their counterparts in Europe, America or Canada. With Israel in a state of total mobilisation the capitalist military-industrial complex receives very lucrative contracts from the Israeli government. After all, these companies are not just in Israel for ideological reasons, but because Israel is a source of cheap labour. In other words, business is business.

In all, labour costs in Israel are about 40 per cent less than in America and Western Europe. This means that the Kfir fighter-bomber produced in Israel costs a third less on the world market than its French counterpart, the Mirage, even though the engine for the Israeli plane is manufactured in the USA by General Electric. This is why transatlantic operators are moving into Israel so fast: because it can even be competitive with colonial countries. Indeed, Israel is a kind of colony of the Lehmans, Khuns, Loebs, Rothschilds, Rockefellers and other Jewish and non-Jewish magnates. This is why they supported Zionism in the first place and now they are reaping the benefits.

The armaments manufacturers have shown the keenest interest in the investment potential of Israel. Among them in the past ten years have been such companies as Rockwell International, Westinghouse, Sylvania, Zenith and Ling-Temco-Vought. Their involvement in the Israeli arms industry has become so great that it has been virtually assimilated into the American military-industrial machine. Many companies in effect already have Israeli subsidiaries.

The consequences of this are there for all to see. The Israelis are proud of their armaments. In one of the halls of the Ministry of Defence (for which read Ministry of Aggression) there is an exhibition. When it comes to arms purchases from the USA and other NATO powers the Israeli "David" turns out to be a "Goliath". Every year Israel imports armaments worth between 1,800 and 2,200 million dollars, and this is just the trade admitted by official US and Israeli sources. You won't find F-16 superfighters or M-60 tanks gracing the stands of the Ministry of Defence exhibition however. Here are displayed only domestically produced goods, including warships, tanks, guns and aircraft, 160 different types of armaments in all.

This is quite a paradox. On the one hand they shout about the necessity of "ensuring the survival of Israel" and "defending" her with the aid of the latest Western weaponry, while on the other hand they themselves are exporting ultramodern armaments, including ship-to-ship missiles and fighter-bombers.

Moreover they are making very handsome profits out of it, which increase each year. The London magazine, *The Middle East,* reports that in 1976, these profits stood at 320 million dollars, in 1977, they had increased 80 per cent, and that the aim was for profits to top the billion mark in 1979. Arms exports come out at the top of Israel's trade balance. Revenue from arms sales abroad is heralded as a national achievement and a panacea for all the economic ills of the country. As *Haaretz* said enthusiastically in 1978, "The sale abroad of just one squadron of Kfir fighter-bombers earns as much foreign currency as the citrus fruit crop for the whole season."

But what does the Israeli worker get out of all this? The proceeds from these sales do nothing to

improve the lot of the Israeli citizen, who bears the heaviest tax burden in the world. The facts speak for themselves: in addition to its current stock of planes the Israelis intend to acquire 15 F-15's and 95 F-16's, the latest in American aviation technology. Each plane costs 25 million dollars–more than its weight in gold! To compare, for the cost of just one F-16, 2,500 three-room flats could be built, that makes 275,000 flats for all 110 planes being bought. This would completely solve Israel's housing problem. The objection may be raised that a part of the arms imports from the USA is paid for by American credit and by the world-wide Jewish community. But all the same, none of that money is going on Israeli schools, hospitals or houses.

There is a further, carefully concealed aspect to this question: the F-15's and F-16's as well as the Sidewinder missiles and the M-60 tanks are manufactured by the American companies McDonnell Douglas, General Dynamics, Northrop, Rockwell and Lockheed. But these very firms or their subsidiaries, such as Amfenol, Sylvania and Zenith, produce these armaments in Israel and control Israeli arms companies such as Israel Aircraft Industries. Thus the profits both from sales to Israel and sales from Israel go into the same pocket, that of the arms manufacturers and the financial oligarchy.

But there is yet another, third, side to the tale. For Israeli-made arms are sold to the most reactionary regimes. Israel fulfils the role of arms supplier to those governments to which NATO itself cannot offer open military aid for political reasons. This especially applies to arms shipments to South Africa, racist Israel's natural ally. Tel Aviv has started a broad-based campaign of re-armament for South Africa. In 1978, six missile-carrying warships were built in Haifa docks costing 18 million dollars each

and about 50 South African military personnel are presently in Israel learning how to use these ships.

Israeli military instructors also serve in the South African army, as an Israeli member of parliament, Fridman, admitted recently. These "advisers" are teaching the South Africans desert war tactics. In exchange Israel receives steel, coal and uranium: Israel has long wanted to get its hands on the raw materials for its own nuclear weapons.

Israel has also agreed to supply South Africa with 20 Kfir fighter-bombers, and arms for ground forces including rockets and various electronic equipment will also be delivered. As the Jerusalem correspondent of the American paper, *The Christian Science Monitor*, pointed out, the American government has not raised any official objections to these deals. In other words, as the paper remarks, the USA is effectively providing South Africa with aid via Israel.

It was recently revealed that the Israeli firm Tadiran is collaborating with the South African firm Khalan on the construction of a military communications factory near Pretoria, adding a new twist to the politico-economic alliance between the two countries. The strengthening of ties between South Africa and Israel is especially ominous in view of the massive reprisals the racist regime is taking against the native population of its own country who are struggling against the inhuman policy of apartheid.

In short, any imperialist, racist or neofascist regime wishing to oppress this or that people in any country immediately becomes a customer of the Israeli arms industry. Towards the end of 1976, Israel announced its willingness to supply the Pinochet regime with military aid. According to the American magazine *Newsweek* they were to send Shafrir air-to-air missiles to Chile. And at the end of the follow-

ing year, the French magazine *Le Point* reported that the Chilean junta had ordered a large consignment of anti-tank rockets from Israel and had invited a contingent of Israeli advisers to instruct in their use.

In May, 1978, the Palestinian press reported that Israel was supplying the bloody Somoza regime in Nicaragua with all kinds of armaments, and in January, 1979, they sent at least three transports full of guns and supplies.

In Costa Rica, *La Libertad,* commenting on the supply of arms by Israel to Latin America, points out that Tel Aviv could not possibly arm the states of Central America without the permission of the USA. As the newspaper emphasised, the Pentagon is using Israel to achieve what it does not dare to attempt directly. The paper goes on to say that in trying to stir up conflict between Honduras and El Salvador, Israel is supplying both states with fighters, transport planes and artillery.

The export of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of armaments by Israel, which at first sight might seem rather odd, conceals the West's policy of turning Israel into the military base for world-wide reaction. The last word in this doctrine is the forced development of the arms industry in Israel with the broad participation of the American and European monopolies belonging to Zionists or in the hands of the Jewish bourgeoisie.

As a consequence of injections of US capital, the Israeli arms industry is growing at an unprecedented rate. Almost 100,000 people work in armaments factories – up to 25 per cent of the country's work force. This NATO-encouraged growth has increased the country's aggressiveness. After all, who needs weapons in peacetime? Arms are a marketable commodity only when people want to kill each other. Hence, those who plough capital into this industry

are scarcely interested in peace. Nor is peace in the interests of the Israeli bourgeoisie, which is getting fat on the arms race. This explains why Zionism is against detente and a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, one of the most volatile areas of world politics. As one of the American leaders of the World Zionist Organisation shamelessly commented, "When blood flows, the cash flows, too."

In its attempts to occupy a leading position in the capitalist system, Zionism is encroaching upon the military-industrial complex as being the most profitable sphere of business. Having given rise to Zionism, the Jewish bourgeoisie now controls, directly or otherwise, more than two-thirds of the arms industry.

Zionism and the ruling circles in Israel are not only sharpening the international situation by their continued aggression in the Middle East, they are also joining forces with all the enemies of peaceful coexistence, and the anti-Soviet, hegemonistic fomenters of a third world war.

THE HAND OF PEKING

Advertisements appear in the Israeli press inviting Israelis to sample eastern cuisine in the Chinese restaurant in Tel Aviv. There have been a number of radio broadcasts about the history of Jewish colonists in China and their "good life" there. Meanwhile, in 1978, *Yediot Achronot* and *Maariv* began to print reports that Israel was taking steps to elucidate the question of establishing diplomatic relations with Peking.

This was more than just putting out feelers. It was more like an invitation to the dance, and it did not go unanswered. In June, 1978, a member of the

Chinese mission to the UN, Ming Zhentang, arranged a rendezvous with Chaim Herzog, Israel's UN representative and a former general in Agaf Modiin (Israeli military intelligence). After the meeting, which according to political observers went far beyond mere protocol, Ming Zhentang mentioned the "enormous significance of the dialogue between Egypt and Israel".

It is reasonable to wonder what provoked these pro-Peking gestures on the part of the Israeli leaders, the representatives of evil imperialist reaction and the sworn enemies of the Arab national liberation movement. What had the Peking leadership done to deserve this favour? How were they playing up to the expansionist, racist Israeli regime?

In order to answer these questions we need only look at the real policies being pursued by China in the Middle East, which run contrary to what their propaganda says. On the one hand, Peking's official position is that China "stands on the side of the Arab people". This is what the vice-premier of the Chinese Council of State, Li Xiannian, said in Peking on February 2, 1978, at a reception for Hassan at-Tuhami, one of Sadat's emissaries. More recently, Chairman Hua Guofeng has assured a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation that Peking stands on the side of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples and completely supports their armed struggle against the Zionists for the return of Arab territory occupied by the Israelis.

These are the words of the Chinese leadership, but what about their deeds? In fact, both in its foreign policy and in its propaganda the Chinese have been playing up to the Israelis for some time.

At the end of the 1960's the Chinese were saying that the USSR is interested in maintaining "neither a position of peace nor of war" in the Middle East

and that the USSR would therefore not offer any significant help to the Arabs in the form of modern weaponry. Consequently, concluded Peking, the Soviet Union is supporting Israel.

The 1973 Middle East war completely refuted these groundless allegations. The Arab forces delivered a series of tangible blows to the Israeli Tsahal army. According to Western military sources, a third of the Israeli Air Force was destroyed and almost a half of her tanks. The best part of Israel's flying aces were killed and Israel stood on the verge of military defeat, as Golda Meir, then Prime Minister, herself admitted.

General Arie Shalev declared that the loss of life during the October war as a percentage of the population was even greater than that suffered by the Americans in Vietnam. And the M-60 tanks and the American Phantoms and Skyhawks are not exactly paper tigers.

So what enabled the Arab armies to achieve what many still call a miracle, namely to breach the Israeli war machine? Perhaps it was the countless pieces of advice, exhortations and admonitions which the Peking leadership never tires of offering to the Arabs?

Along with many other Arab newspapers the Libyan paper *Al-Shaab* gave a clear and direct answer to this question. It wrote, "The Arab people are convinced that it was Soviet armaments supplied to Egypt and Syria which shot down the Phantoms and not Chinese moralising."

But ultramodern weaponry alone does not bring victory. Victories are won by people. And it was proved on the battle-grounds of the October war and in the vicious air battles that Arab tank crews, airmen and soldiers trained with Soviet expert aid are in no way inferior to the graduates of the best

military academies of NATO and Israel. On the contrary, they are better, because they know that they are fighting for a just cause.

Why, then, do the Chinese leaders fly in the face of reality and try over and over again to paint Soviet Middle East policy in the blackest possible colours? Why do they say that that policy has been a total failure? The actual content of these fairy-stories is not important – the Chinese themselves do not devote much thought to them, but operate on the principle of "Keep on slandering and see what happens". The important question is why the Peking leadership should need to do this.

The reason for Peking's attitude is simply that they need to hide the hypocrisy of their policies in the Middle East and their betrayal of Arab interests. The influential newspaper of the Malagasy Republic, *Imongo Vaovao,* discussing the position of the Chinese in the 1973 October war wrote, "For a second time in the recent past the attempts by China to paint herself as a friend to those in need have been shown to be groundless. The first time this happened in South Asia in 1971, when Peking inexcusably supported the then Pakistani president in his repression of the liberation struggle of the people of Bangladesh. When hostilities broke out in the Middle East, China assured the Arabs of her wholehearted support in their struggle for the return of the territory seized from them by Israel. But once the fighting took a serious turn the Chinese refused to lift a finger. Instead they simply started abusing the Soviet Union."

The Indian communist newspaper *New Age* also underlined that the 1973 October war had shown up the bankruptcy of Chinese affirmations of support for national liberation movements. Peking was unable to offer a solution to the Middle East crisis,

and would no doubt have preferred the USA and USSR to be drawn into the conflict, which could have led to a world war. The paper pointed out that China offered no help to the Arabs, and restricted her advice to suggesting that they "rely on their own forces". At the end of October, 1973, the situation on the Sinai front was going against Egypt. As a result of indecisiveness in Sadat's command, or maybe because of some kind of pact, the Egyptian 3rd army on the Sinai peninsula was surrounded and threatened with having to surrender. The way to Cairo was open to the Israelis. On the initiative of the Soviet Union, the UN Security Council passed a resolution aimed at a cease-fire which was greeted with approval by the Arabs and the rest of the world. It was only China, a country which is a permanent member of the Security Council, that voiced opposition. She embarked on a war of words and a series of diplomatic manoeuvres calculated to hinder a settlement of the critical situation. At a time when Israel was issuing threats to destroy the Arab armed forces "once and for all" so as to break their will to resist, the Chinese representative boycotted the Security Council. He ostentatiously refused to take part in the vote of October 22, 1973, when the resolution for an immediate cease-fire was passed. And on October 23, when Israeli forces broke the cease-fire and attacked the Egyptian army, the Chinese delegate not only failed to support a second Security Council resolution but did everything he could to delay it. He continued his obstructive techniques even on October 25, when, at a Security Council meeting called at the request of Egypt, there was a discussion of the motion put forward by eight nonaligned countries to put the two previous resolutions into immediate effect.

Thus, in 1973, Peking adopted a line which threat-

ened Egypt with military disaster and in 1978, it officially supported the infamous American-Israeli-Egyptian Camp David agreement, the Middle East Munich. Against a background of censure of the separate pact on behalf of the progressive world, the pronouncement by the Peking daily, *Renmin ribao,* that the Egyptian people "support the efforts of Sadat in the interests of peace in the Middle East" sounded a dissonant note. At the same time Xinhua (the New China News Agency) was making complimentary remarks about the deal between American imperialism, Israeli Zionism and the capitulatory Egyptian regime. And finally, during the visit of the mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, to Peking in autumn 1978, a vice-premier of the Council of State again made approving references to Camp David. In fact, not a single word of criticism of this agreement appeared in the whole of the Chinese press although the treaty is aimed at strengthening the position of imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East and throughout the world, and breaking up the Arab national liberation movement.

As the great Confucius said, it is not just what a man says that is important, but what he is silent about. The Tunisian weekly, *Jeune Afrique,* has written that by not making any further mention of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole rightful representative of the Palestinian Arabs and by remaining silent about the recognition of their sovereign rights, including their right to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state, the Chinese leadership have committed a complete betrayal of those rights.

This has been noted by a number of political observers and officials visiting China. Thus, for example, the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Donald Jamieson, said in an official state-

ment on a visit to Peking at the beginning of 1978, "China supports Mr. Sadat's initiative and approves of US policy in the Middle East."

On a visit to China in August, 1978, a member of the general secretariat of the General People's Congress of Libya, Abdul Jalloud, speaking at a reception in Peking said, "We regret that China supports the treachery of the Egyptian president, which is condemned by the whole Arab nation." Speaking on behalf of all those Arabs who stand for uncompromising struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction within the Arab ranks, Jalloud declared, "We hope that the Chinese people, who themselves suffered greatly at the hands of colonialists and took up armed struggle for the liberation of their country, will adopt a firm line in relation to the just cause of the Palestinian people and will not be swayed by mistaken views." Jalloud was a guest of the Chinese government and, naturally, as befits a guest, expressed his reproach of his hosts in the most mild language he could.

If we look at the real situation, we can say in all certainty that, while hiding behind declarations of support for the independence struggle, the Chinese leadership is in fact following a course of forming unprincipled alliances with imperialist and reactionary forces. It appears that Peking is keen to see an Israeli victory and the defeat of the Arab national liberation movement. Moreover, as Sadat was ostentatiously refusing to receive a delegation for an all-Arab summit meeting, in Cairo in November, 1978, he met with great ceremony a mission from Peking headed by Ulanhu, chairman of one of the Chinese provincial committees. The aim of this mission was clear to everyone: to express China's approval of the perfidious course adopted by Sadat against the unity of the Arab people in

their struggle against Zionism and imperialism. At the same time this visit was a further demonstration of the way the actions of the imperialists and Zionists are coordinated with those of their Chinese well-wishers.

At the end of March, 1979, the Beirut weekly, *Middle East Reporter,* said that Peking intended to establish diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv in the near future as a result of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. This is seen by Arab political observers as a perfectly logical step on the part of the Maoists. And indeed the Chinese government has adopted an openly unprincipled stand in relation to the struggle of the Arab people, joining forces in effect with imperialism and Arab reactionaries. They try to cover this up with high-flown pronouncements about their "unswerving support" for the Arab people. But as the Chinese proverb has it, a fish eye is not a pearl. It is actions which count, not words. In fact, the Chinese leaders long ago betrayed the Palestinian cause when they established contact with the Zionist bosses and the ruling circles in Israel.

The meeting a few months ago between Geng Biao, vice-premier of the Chinese Council of State, and the president of the American Jewish Congress, one of the most influential of Zionist organisations, provides food for thought on this matter. At the meeting, Geng Biao announced that China was no longer going to insist that Israel hand back all the occupied territory.

After this meeting it became known that Chinese Foreign Minister, Huang Hua, had a secret meeting with Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizmann in Switzerland. This spring a high-ranking diplomat from the Chinese delegation to the UN visited Israel. As was subsequently revealed, he informed Israeli officials that the Chinese government looked

favourably on the possibility of establishing relations with Israel and in particular of exchanging consular or (to begin with) trade representatives.

The fall of the Shah's regime in Iran brought new facts to light. According to the Libyan weekly *Al-Kifah al-Arabi,* documents were discovered in a top secret Israeli dossier in Teheran which not only revealed long-standing cooperation between Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, and the Iranian secret police SAVAK (a connection already well known) but also with Chinese intelligence. The secret Israeli spy ring, relying on the aid of the hundreds of thousands of highly pro-Israeli Jews in Iran, competed with the CIA to influence the Shah's regime. In fact, Reza Pahlavi trusted the Israeli cloak-and-dagger merchants more than he trusted their American partners.

Decoded top-secret Zionist documents provide irrefutable proof of the Sino-Israeli connection. Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency and a past master of provocation and sabotage, used pro-Chinese spies in the Middle East, and with the aid of the Chinese secret service, dealt the Palestinian freedom fighters a stab in the back.

In addition, Chinese saboteurs and their Zionist allies tried to break the collaboration between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini by means of psychological warfare. They made particular use of Maoist and ultra-left and anarchist groups in the Lebanon, France and Iran itself.

Soon the teletypes were buzzing with reports of the strengthening alliance between China and Israel. On March 16, an Israeli trade delegation visited China. The Israeli news media refused to give any details about the negotiations. But American Zionists, who send financial aid to Israel and are well-

informed of the affairs of their trustees, let the cat out of the bag. The American paper, *Jewish Light*, announced in plain terms that the main subject for discussion had been the delivery to China of American Phantom-4 fighter-bombers which at present form part of the Israeli air defences. Under the Camp David agreement the USA promised to supply Israel with 3,000 million dollars worth of the latest armaments, and in 1980, Israel is due to receive 75 F-16 warplanes, currently forming part of the US Air Force. These planes will replace the obsolescent Phantom-4 fighter-bombers which are being withdrawn from the US fleet, but which currently make up the basic strike force of the Israeli Air Force.

In April, 1979, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan visited Nepal, Thailand, Burma and Hong Kong (which has direct links with Mainland China) where it was revealed that the former Israeli Defence Minister met with top-ranking Chinese military officials to set the seal on the sale of US-manufactured Israeli armaments. This deal hardly comes as a surprise. Having taken up an anti-Soviet line, the Chinese government has in effect aligned itself with imperialism and Zionism in the fight against the Arab people. It has adopted an openly unprincipled stand in relation to the struggle of the Arab people and thus effectively joined forces with imperialism and Zionism. At the same time, the Chinese have embarked on a campaign of slander directed against the true friend of all Arab peoples – the Soviet Union. For some years, their propaganda including public statements made by their representatives at the United Nations, has been aimed at damaging Soviet-Arab relations. They try to cover up their subversive activity with high-flown pronouncements about their "unswerving support" for the

Arab peoples and a smoke-screen of anti-Sovietism, in aid of Zionist imperialist aggression. Making itself out to be the Arabs' best friend, Peking in fact is stabbing them in the back.

The magazine *Saut Phalastin,* the organ of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has every reason to write, "Anti-Sovietism is pushing China into an alliance with forces hostile to the anti-imperialist movement in the Arab world and with reactionary Arab regimes." As the magazine stresses, in doing this "China has lost the trust of the Arab world".

At the same time Dayan's tour of Southeast Asia shows that Israel is again embarking on a course of diplomatic, political and economic activity in the Third World. Apparently Tel Aviv has not lost hope of dragging out and renovating the Trojan horse of imperialism and neocolonialism.

Israel is trying to become an effective route to developing countries for Western monopolies, thereby repaying the generous favours that she has received from world-wide reactionary forces. Companies based in the West, which for one reason or another find it advantageous to work through Israel, are pumping capital into the Third World vicariously, under the cover of Israeli proxies. The Malagasy *Imongo Vaovao* describes the process as follows: "Having found it difficult to penetrate the African markets, American monopolies are using their Israeli partners to help them make their investments. The Israeli ruling circles have shown that they are clearing the way for imperialism in their attempts to achieve these ends."

Israeli propaganda never tires of claiming that her "foreign aid" programme has no ulterior political motives, and that she is the "best friend" of developing countries. In fact, she is trying to squeeze out the maximum political gain with the

least expenditure. As a rule, Israel participates in secondary projects which offer decent rewards and have good advertising value. *Chicago Daily News* reports that Israeli aid to Asia, Africa and Latin America was only 36 million dollars for the year 1978. This is a very modest-looking figure compared with the 1,800 million dollars which she received the same year from the USA for arms.

The close links between Israel and South Africa are also arousing deep concern throughout the world. The two countries complement each other nicely in their defence of modern imperialism. An important link in this chain is the Zionist organisations which are active in South Africa. The South African Jewish community of 118,000 is the most active and generous supporter of Israel after New York. On June 5, 1967, the day the Israelis attacked the Arabs, this group sent to Israel 21 million dollars within twenty-four hours. In the past ten years South Africa has become Israel's main trading partner and as has already been mentioned much of their trading is in arms. The South Africans receive weapons from Israel with which to suppress the Africans' struggle against racial discrimination. Shipments of arms to South Africa from Israel have trebled in the past two years alone. There is also a whole battery of evidence relating to diplomatic, political, military and intelligence ties between the two countries in drafting plans for the suppression of African and Arab national liberation movements.

CONCLUSION

In the past few years political events have shown that the forces of reaction, imperialism and with it Zionism are suffering defeat after defeat. The Zionists have failed to gain control over the majority of the world's Jews. And as was pointed out at the 18th Communist Party Congress in Israel held in 1976, in that country "there have appeared sizable forces which have a realistic view of the situation". The domestic situation in Israel completely refutes Zionist myths about the absence of a class struggle there and the "special nature" of Israeli society.

Let us recall the recent past. Begin's economic policy announced in October, 1977, was entirely to the advantage of the middle classes, allowing them to transfer into Israel 3,000 million dollars worth of investments from secret foreign accounts. At the same time the reforms dealt a hard blow to the Israeli working class, whose hopeless and unbearable situation became even more hopeless and more unbearable. The Israeli pound fell to half its original value against the dollar, prices rose by 10-30 per cent and inflation never went below the 56 per cent mark.

The Israeli working class reacted quickly and unambiguously. As in any capitalist country where

there are exploiters and exploited, the Israeli workers, whether Arabs, Jews, or other nationalities, used the time-tested weapon of striking. Throughout the whole of the first half of November, 1977, thousands of workers and dockers in Haifa, Beersheba, Ashdod and Tel Aviv went on strike. They were joined by post office and transport workers. Haifa University and the Israeli Institute of Technology there (Technion) were shut down. There were demonstrations in many towns, including Tel Aviv. Thus in the space of just one week in November, 1977, nearly half a million Israelis took part in strikes, meetings and demonstrations. Israel had not seen social protest on such a scale in all the 30 years of its existence.

The General Secretary of Histadrut, Yeruham Meshel, called the day when the Israeli government adopted the new economic programme, October 28, 1977, "Black Friday", and made a new prophecy – that "Israel can expect another serious round of social unrest in 1978". This prophecy indeed came true. In 1978, three-quarters of a million workers went on strike in 500 of the country's enterprises. And in 1979 the government decided to cut its subsidies on consumer goods by 100 million dollars. This meant price rises of 20-30 per cent on bread, milk, cheese and poultry. While Israel is in the trough imposed by Zionist strategy, her workers are condemned to being exploited, and this situation is being exacerbated by the militaristic course adopted by Tel Aviv. However, despite Zionist expatiations about "the class unity of all Jews" Israeli workers are strengthening their determination to fight for social emancipation.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, of which the Communist Party is a member, has denounced the Begin-Dayan government's actions as

being a continuation of the reactionary policy of "boosting the economy" at the expense of the workers. The announcement noted that such measures are powerless to pull the country out of its crisis while its industry is still geared to the interests of militarism. Despite continual police persecution, the Israeli Communist Party is standing up for the rights of Israeli workers. It is urging a united front combining peace with political realism, denouncing the policy of aggression of the Israeli government, and demanding the liberation of all the Arab lands occupied by Israel and recognition of the lawful rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Despite its feverish activity and the support it receives from influential circles in the USA, Zionism, like every reactionary movement and like imperialism as a whole, is a creed without a future. Nonetheless, the machinations of Zionism demand constant vigilance and organised rebuttal and unmasking. The struggle for peace, social progress and freedom is indissolubly linked with the struggle against the theory and practice of Zionism.

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